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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

16 FACEBOOK, INC., a Delaware corporation,
17 Plaintiff/Counterclaim
Defendant,

18 v.

19 BRANDTOTAL LTD., an Israeli corporation, and
20 UNIMANIA, INC., a Delaware corporation,
21 Defendants/
Counterclaim
Plaintiffs.

Case No. 3:20-CV-07182-JCS

**PLAINTIFF FACEBOOK INC.'S
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Hon. Joseph C. Spero
Courtroom F – 15th Floor
Date: May 14, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.

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1 Defendants-Counterclaim Plaintiffs BrandTotal and Unimania (collectively, “BrandTotal”)
2 have known [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] BrandTotal nonetheless made a *conscious decision* to build a business around those violations,
4 knowing the impact an enforcement action by Facebook or Google would have on that business. To
5 facilitate its data harvesting activities, BrandTotal developed, promoted, and distributed several
6 browser extensions and mobile applications, all programmed and designed to automatically scrape
7 user and advertising-related data from Facebook and Instagram (and other sites). After a thorough
8 investigation, Facebook took an enforcement action against BrandTotal (a recidivist scraper) by
9 disabling BrandTotal’s Facebook accounts, notifying Google of BrandTotal’s extensions, and filing
10 this lawsuit.

11 BrandTotal has asked this Court to sanction its scraping operation. It sought a temporary
12 restraining order, which this Court denied. It filed counterclaims, which this Court dismissed. And
13 in so doing, this Court confirmed that BrandTotal violated Facebook’s terms. During the pendency of
14 this litigation, and despite suggesting that it had stopped, BrandTotal continued to use multiple apps
15 and an extension, [REDACTED]. BrandTotal now seeks
16 extraordinary equitable relief allowing its continued scraping through yet another extension that it
17 calls “UpVoice 2021.”¹ But BrandTotal is far from meeting the high bar required for such relief.

18 *First*, BrandTotal fails to show that it will likely face irreparable harm without the preliminary
19 relief it seeks. Despite claiming to be on the brink of collapse in October 2020, BrandTotal has nearly
20 [REDACTED] in cash on hand and continues to bring in considerable revenue from [REDACTED] active clients.²
21 And any harm that BrandTotal alleges it has suffered is self-inflicted and does not warrant the
22 extraordinary relief sought. BrandTotal was [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]. It may not now claim irreparable injury
24 from the utterly foreseeable consequences of its decision to disregard [REDACTED].

25 *Second*, BrandTotal is not likely to succeed on the merits of any of its claims. The evidence

27 ¹ In this opposition, Facebook will refer to the redesigned UpVoice extension launched on March 11,
28 2021 as “UpVoice 2021” and previous iterations of the extension as “UpVoice Legacy.”

² In its first amended counterclaim, BrandTotal alleged it faced “imminent insolvency” as a result of
Facebook’s enforcement action. FAC ¶ 194.

1 has shown that Facebook neither tortiously interfered with BrandTotal’s contracts or economic
2 relationships, nor otherwise acted unfairly or unlawfully. Facebook enforced its terms against
3 BrandTotal because it determined BrandTotal to be aggressively scraping “sensitive user information”
4 from over a million users. Ex. A at 1166, 1169. Facebook therefore had a legitimate business purpose
5 enforcing its terms: enforcing its own contracts and complying with its obligations under a consent
6 order with the FTC. Accordingly, BrandTotal is not likely to succeed on its tortious interference or
7 unfair competition claims.

8 BrandTotal’s claims for declaratory relief does not entitle them to an injunction. A declaration
9 that BrandTotal’s actions were legal would not establish that *Facebook* acted unlawfully—which is
10 what BrandTotal must show to obtain the preliminary injunction that it seeks. Further, BrandTotal
11 seeks a preliminary injunction, not a preliminary declaration; and in any event, this Court lacks
12 authority, under the Declaratory Judgment Act, to even grant a preliminary declaration. And even
13 setting aside all these issues, BrandTotal’s own allegations show that *BrandTotal* interfered with
14 Facebook’s contracts with its users, and violated both the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (the
15 “CFAA”) and the California Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (the “CDAFA”).

16 *Third*, the balance of equities does not favor preliminary injunctive relief. BrandTotal
17 continues to derive revenue from its conscious and knowing decision to build a business around
18 violating Facebook’s terms. The equities are not in its favor.

19 *Finally*, as this Court has already held, the public interest does not favor an order prohibiting
20 Facebook from enforcing its terms. The public has an interest in allowing Facebook to ensure the
21 security of its platform. Indeed, perhaps recognizing that the law and the facts of this case do not
22 support the extraordinary remedy of preliminary injunctive relief, BrandTotal attempts to shoehorn
23 this case into the mold of an entirely different case—*hiQ Labs, Inc. v. LinkedIn Corp.*, 938 F.3d 985
24 (9th Cir. 2019). But it does not fit. *hiQ* concerned information that users “shared on their public
25 profiles, available for viewing by anyone with a web browser[.]” *Id.* at 989. This case, by contrast,
26 involves BrandTotal’s reliance on its panelists’ Facebook login credentials to scrape information from
27 secure, password-protected locations. The Ninth Circuit itself expressly recognized this distinction:
28 “Facebook data, by contrast [to LinkedIn], is not generally accessible, and therefore is not an

1 equivalent ... source of data.” *Id.* at 993 (citation omitted). The password-protected information that
2 BrandTotal collects—information about advertising strategies and other users’ interactions with ads—
3 is information that, based on Facebook’s terms, the public expects to be protected from automated
4 collection. The relief that it seeks would upend those expectations and undermine Facebook’s ability
5 to protect the integrity of its platform from future abuse. That is not in the public interest.

6 **I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

7 **A. Facebook Prohibits The Unauthorized Collection Of Data By Automated Means**
8 **To Protect User Privacy And The Integrity Of The Platform**

9 All data scraping presents a security and privacy risk to both Facebook users and to the
10 Facebook platform. Declaration of Sonal Mehta (“Mehta Decl.”), Ex. 1 ¶ 5; Mehta Decl. Ex. 2.
11 Facebook, like almost all platforms, has terms that prohibit data scraping and takes affirmative steps
12 to enforce those terms. *Id.* ¶¶ 5-7.³ Even BrandTotal, despite all its complaints about the equity of
13 Facebook’s anti-scraping term, prohibits the same abusive behavior on its platform in its terms of
14 service using almost precisely the same language. See Mehta Decl. Ex. 3, BrandTotal, *Service Terms*
15 and *Conditions* § 5.1, (“You shall not, and shall not allow any third party to: (i) copy, distribute or
16 modify any part of the Site without our prior written authorization; ... [and/or] (iv) use or launch any
17 automated system ... to access the Site” (emphasis added)).

18 Anti-scraping provisions, like those used by Facebook, BrandTotal, and others, exist because
19 scraping degrades public trust and takes away users’ control of their data. Mehta Decl. Ex. 1 ¶¶ 5(b),
20 (c) & (d). Even where users, in theory, have the ability to consent to the scraping, scraping still has
21 the potential to access information from a non-consenting user, as in the case of a shared computer.
22 See *id.* at ¶ 5(c). Users expect Facebook to implement procedures to protect user data, and Facebook
23

24 ³ Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Amazon also prohibit the use of automated means to access and/or
25 collect data from their platforms. See Twitter, *Twitter Terms of Service*, <https://tinyurl.com/2rxrremm>
26 (last accessed Apr. 9, 2021); YouTube, *Terms Of Service*, <https://tinyurl.com/3rrtrfeu> (last accessed
27 Apr. 9, 2021); Amazon, *Conditions Of Use*, <https://tinyurl.com/y2mnmzap> (last accessed Apr. 9,
28 2021); and LinkedIn, *LinkedIn Service Terms*, <https://tinyurl.com/37bt5svw> (last accessed Apr. 9,
2021). And Term 4.4.1.1 of the Google Chrome Store Developer Agreement prohibits developing or
publishing any materials that violates the terms of service for a third-party. See Google Chrome
Developers, *Google Chrome Web Store Developer Agreement*, <https://tinyurl.com/557xxxrc> (last
accessed Apr. 9, 2021).

1 has done so. But scraping threatens the security of data that Facebook has undertaken to protect,
2 allowing for the collection of personal or user information, including copyrighted information. *Id.* at
3 ¶¶ 5(b), (c).

4 Scraping advertising-related data, too, creates risks to the security and privacy of user
5 information. “Advertising data doesn’t live in a vacuum,” Clark Dep. Tr. (Ex. B) at 44:21-23; *see also*
6 *id.* at 84:13-16 (advertising data “does not exist on [an] endpoint by itself”). Even simply collecting
7 information on how many times an ad has been viewed—referred to as the ad’s “impressions”—will
8 “include[] other, both personal identifiable information … as well as information about the
9 advertisement.” *Id.* at 84:16-19. That can include the advertiser’s name—which, if the advertiser is
10 an individual as “happens often,” means that individual’s first and last name—and geographic
11 location, as well as “other non-public user information associated with other users that interacted with
12 the ad.” *Id.* at 104:18-105:8. Comments to and interactions with ads, for example, have users’ “first
13 name/last name as well as user ID associated with” them. *Id.* at 105:8-11.

14 Scraping also creates risks to the integrity of the Facebook platform. Mehta Decl. Ex. 1 ¶ 5(f).
15 Facebook is designed for human, not automated, use. Ex. B at 81:15-18, 85:15-23. Automated
16 methods can collect much larger quantities of information than any human user could, which requires
17 more processing capacity and can tax Facebook’s networks. *See* Newman Dep. Tr. (Ex. C) at 65:12-
18 17; Mehta Decl. Ex. 1 ¶ 5(g). This can impair the functionality of the platform, imposing costs on
19 Facebook and degrading the service provided to real users. Mehta Decl., Ex. 1 ¶ 5(f).

20 Finally, scraping creates security concerns. “Scraping evades system limits” put in place to
21 protect the security of the platform from potential abuse, “mak[ing] it more difficult to employ
22 technological solutions and systems that are designed to detect and differentiate normal user behavior
23 from automated activity, including that caused by malware and other hacking tools.” *Id.* at ¶ 5(a).
24 And tools designed to scrape data (like BrandTotal’s extensions and apps) can often be used for other
25 malicious purposes. *Id.* This “make[s] the site less secure,” and more vulnerable to “harmful acts,
26 like coordinated inauthentic behavior or submitting fraudulent content takedown requests.” *Id.* Once
27 data is scraped, Facebook has no way to monitor the security of that data or even to know how it may
28 be stored or used. Ex. B at 74:15-19. It is only when information is collected through Facebook’s

1 authorized channels that Facebook can ensure that the information remains protected. *Id.* at 74:20-
2 75:4. But when data is taken out of Facebook's secure environment, it can, even if only
3 unintentionally, fall "in[to] the hands of bad actors." Mehta Decl., Ex. 1 ¶ 5(a). All data scraping,
4 therefore, creates a risk of harm to data security and privacy. Ex. B at 74:20-75:4.

5 **B. To Promote User Control Over Data, Facebook Makes Advertising Data
6 Available Through Authorized Means Subject To Advertiser Consent**

7 In addition to ensuring data security, Facebook's data access protocols are also designed to
8 protect users' control over their own data. User control is the "guiding principle" driving decisions
9 with respect to data access. Ex. C at 27:11-17; *accord id.* at 67:18-21, 89:4-7 ("[A]ny restriction in
10 data is done to adhere to our principle of the owner of the advertisement owning the data associated
11 with that advertisement."); Mehta Decl., Ex. 4 ¶¶ 5, 9. While Facebook makes a wide range of
12 advertising-related information available through its application programming interfaces ("APIs"), *see*
13 Ex. D at 1-3; Ex. E, control over information about the performance of any ad campaign is limited to
14 the user that created the campaign, Ex. C at 27:4-17, 28:22-25 ("Our products are built to provide
15 control of data to the advertiser that create[d] the campaign"), *accord* 48:12-15. As a general rule,
16 access to "advertiser data [is] limit[ed] ... to the advertiser itself." *Id.* at 73:19-21. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] Ex. C at 74:15-20. This creates user expectations regarding the privacy of advertising
20 campaign information. *See* Mehta Decl., Ex. 1 ¶ 5(a) (users except Facebook to prohibit scraping).
21 Advertisers can, though, consent to share their advertising data with third parties through the API
22 process. Ex. C at 81:8-25.⁴ Any data collection outside of these authorized channels would undermine
23 advertisers' legitimate expectations of control and privacy.

24 Consistent with its focus on maintaining advertisers' control over their own data, Facebook
25

26 _____
27 ⁴ One common example is for advertisers to consent to share their advertising data with third-party
28 measurement companies. Ex. C at 44:9-20. Certain vetted companies can become measurement
partners, who have negotiated, enhanced access to data flow. *Id.* at 43:3-8, 45:4-10, 65:7-11.
Potential measurement partners are evaluated for, among other things, the value that their services
can bring to Facebook advertisers and their compliance with Facebook's terms. *Id.* at 49:5-50:8.

1 does not make information about competitors' advertising strategies generally available to advertisers.
2 See Ex. C at 82:8-25. Facebook does, on occasion, provide a "share of voice" report as a free service
3 to advertisers that compares the volume of impressions for an advertiser's own advertisements with
4 that of an aggregated, anonymized competitive set. Ex. D at 5. But the "ethos" guiding Facebook's
5 product development is that advertisers' control all information concerning their own advertising
6 campaigns. Ex. C at 32:22-33:5, 48:12-15.

7 **C. BrandTotal Has Repeatedly Violated Facebook's Terms By Scraping User and
8 Advertising-Related Information Without Authorization**

9 BrandTotal has a long history of scraping data in violation of Facebook's terms. FAC Exs. D
10 & E. Since at least 2018, BrandTotal—often concealing its activity through its subsidiary Unimania⁵
11 —developed, distributed, and used a combined ten mobile apps and browser extensions designed to
12 improperly scrape data from Facebook and other social-media platforms. Dor Dep. Tr. Vol. I (Ex. F)
13 at 18:3-4, 67:3-7, 68:12-14; Mehta Decl. Ex. 5. ¶¶ 5-6 & Ex. 1. In April 2019, Facebook detected two
14 BrandTotal apps—Social One and Phoenix—that "scrape[d] Facebook user data," including "ad
15 targeting data." Dkt. 125-24 at 14656. BrandTotal designed those apps [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] *Id.*
17 at 14656-57. The apps had "already been actioned and taken down" from the Google Play Store before
18 Facebook took any enforcement action. *Id.* at 745; Karve Dep. Tr. (Ex. G) at 51:16-53:7, 66:14-67:18.

19 BrandTotal came back to the platform within the next year, scraping non-public user profile
20 and ad data through browser extensions UpVoice, Anonymous Story Viewer, and Ads Feed. Ex. G at
21 74:21-76:9; Ex. I; Ex. A at 1167-68. An investigation in or around March 2020 revealed BrandTotal
22 to be "one of the most aggressive scrapers [Facebook had] encountered, ... com[ing] back to the
23 platform, more aggressively and with greater sophistication." Ex. A at 1169. After determining that
24 BrandTotal was scraping non-public user-information including gender, date of birth, location, and
25

26 _____
27 5 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

1 advertising interests, Ex. G at 82:20-83:6, 93:3-16, 97:7-20, as well as advertising-related information,
2 Mehta Decl. Ex. 5 at ¶ 17(c)-(d), Facebook, in September 2020, disabled BrandTotal's Facebook
3 accounts and "contact[ed] Google to give them a heads-up about the extensions." Ex. G at 137:3-24;
4 Dkt. 126-11 at 16959. BrandTotal designed its apps and extensions to scape non-public user profile
5 information and [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]⁶ BrandTotal nonetheless designed its apps and extensions to automatically [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED], whenever a user visited Facebook or Instagram. Ex. F at 113:9-118:9
12 (explaining operation of UpVoice); *see also id.* at 71:5-7 (explaining that BrandTotal's different
13 extensions use "the same collection code"). BrandTotal collected that information [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 **D. BrandTotal Continued To Scrape Data After The Filing Of This Lawsuit**

19 Despite Google removing UpVoice from its Chrome Web Store, about 10 to 15% of installed
20 UpVoice Legacy extensions remained operational and continued collecting Facebook data [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] Ex. F at 91:19-94:5; Dor Dep. Tr. Vol. II (Ex. L) at 23:23-24:12. And
22 notwithstanding this lawsuit, and [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED], BrandTotal continued to load that data into its databases and to sell that information to its
24 customers. Ex. F at 94:7-96:22. [REDACTED]

25 _____
26 ⁶ BrandTotal's counsel explained that "any data collected, using automated means, from what is
27 defined products, cannot be collected." Ex. J at 1856. To reach the conclusion that the collection of
28 ads that a user sees on Facebook was in a "grey area" with respect to that rule, BrandTotal's counsel
concluded that ad data "is not part of the 'Products' definition." *Id.* at 1857. Facebook's terms define
"Products" to include Facebook's "in app browser." *See* Facebook, *What are the Facebook Products*,
<https://tinyurl.com/23y882ww> (last accessed Apr. 9, 2021).

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] *id.* at 77:4-78:7; *accord* Ex. L at 105:9-106:16.⁷

4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] . Ex. F at 97:6-
7 8, 97:16-21. [REDACTED] . *Id.* at
8 97:22-98:19. However, behind the scenes, BrandTotal re-designed a version of UpVoice specifically
9 to collect Facebook data. As early as February 9, 2021, BrandTotal represented to its customers that
10 [REDACTED] Ex. M. But
11 BrandTotal did not inform either Facebook or the Court of its intention to redesign UpVoice to collect
12 Facebook data until the hearing on Facebook's first motion to dismiss on February 19, 2021, *see* Feb.
13 19, 2021 Hr'g Tr. 11:9-11, and did not provide Facebook with any specific information about the
14 redesigned UpVoice until February 25, 2021, a week before its planned launch. Ex. N.

15 BrandTotal designed UpVoice 2021 to [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23
24
25 _____
26 7 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

1 **E. BrandTotal Continues To Sign New Customers And Bring In Revenue**

2 Despite contrary claims to this Court, according to BrandTotal's communications to its
3 customers, the removal of UpVoice from the Google Chrome Web Store [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]. Ex. [REDACTED]

5 O. Indeed, even without UpVoice 2021, [REDACTED] Leibovich Dep. Tr. (Ex. P)

6 [REDACTED]
7 at 53:23-54:11. That includes [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] *Id.* at 85:17-87:2.

11 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

12 BrandTotal seeks "an extraordinary and drastic remedy." *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 689
13 (2008). The bar for such relief is high, and BrandTotal falls far short. To obtain a preliminary
14 injunction, BrandTotal must establish that: (1) it is "likely to succeed on the merits," (2) it is "likely
15 to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief," (3) "the balance of equities tips in its
16 favor," and (4) a preliminary injunction "is in the public interest." *Kiva Health Brands LLC v. Kiva
Brand, Inc.*, 402 F. Supp. 3d 877, 884 (N.D. Cal. 2019). Moreover, to the extent that BrandTotal seeks
17 a mandatory injunction ordering Facebook to take action, the burden is "doubly demanding." *Garcia
v. Google, Inc.*, 786 F.3d 733, 740 (9th Cir. 2015). Such relief "is particularly disfavored," and to be
18 entitled to it, BrandTotal "must establish that the law and facts *clearly favor* [its] position, not simply
19 that [it] is likely to succeed." *Id.* A preliminary injunction, moreover, "must be no broader ... than
20 necessary to redress the injury shown." *California v. Azar*, 911 F.3d 558, 584 (9th Cir. 2018).

21 **III. BRANDTOTAL HAS NOT ESTABLISHED IRREPARABLE INJURY**

22 BrandTotal has not shown that it needs nor is entitled to the extraordinary relief it seeks.
23 "[I]rreparable harm is the single most important prerequisite for the issuance of a preliminary
24 injunction." *A&A Int'l Apparel, Inc. v. Xu*, 2015 WL 12850544, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 29, 2015)
25 (quoting *Freedom Holdings, Inc. v. Spitzer*, 408 F.3d 112, 114 (2d Cir. 2005)). To succeed on its
26 motion for preliminary relief, BrandTotal must show that irreparable harm is *likely*—a mere showing
27 of [REDACTED]
28

of “possibl[e]” irreparable harm is no longer sufficient, even if the other factors weighed heavily in BrandTotal’s favor. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1132 (9th Cir. 2011).

As a preliminary matter, BrandTotal has not shown that any irreparable harm is imminent nor can it, because Facebook has not taken an action against UpVoice 2021. And even if it had, there would be no *imminent* injury to BrandTotal. Throughout this litigation, BrandTotal has claimed to stand “on the brink of collapse” and to be in danger of “imminent insolvency.” Dkt. 27 at 23; Mot. at 16, 29-30; Dkt. 23 at 22. But discovery has revealed that, at best, BrandTotal overstated many of the dire predictions it made about its financial situation in its motion for a TRO, including:

Representation in TRO (October)	Reality (Post-Discovery)
BrandTotal “stands on the brink of collapse.” Dkt. 68 at 23.	[REDACTED]
BrandTotal “cannot long survive absent an injunction that restores the company to the status quo.” Dkt. 68 at 24.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
BrandTotal “cannot … secure new customers.” Dkt. 68 at 24.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
BrandTotal “cannot provide contracted services [to] existing customers.” Dkt. 68 at 24.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Losing access to Facebook will “leave approximately twenty-eight (28) people jobless.” Dkt. 68 at 24.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 There was no imminent injury in October and there is none now. And in any case, the harms
2 BrandTotal points to now are compensable through damages—by definition they are not irreparable.
3 Finally, any harm that BrandTotal will possibly face is self-inflicted.

4 **A. BrandTotal Has Not Shown That Irreparable Injury Is Likely**

5 BrandTotal cannot show that irreparable harm is “*likely* in the absence of an injunction.”
6 *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). BrandTotal acknowledges as much,
7 positing that “*if* Facebook interferes with UpVoice 2021, BrandTotal will not be able to survive until
8 trial.” Mot. 15. But “[s]peculative injury cannot be the basis for a finding of irreparable harm.” *In*
9 *re Excel Innovations*, 502 F.3d 1086, 1098 (9th Cir. 2007). Any potential irreparable injury is
10 expressly contingent on a future event—some action by Facebook with respect to UpVoice 2021. But
11 BrandTotal has put forward no evidence—nor can it—that Facebook has taken any such action.
12 BrandTotal cannot base its theory of irreparable harm on some hypothetical future event, rather it must
13 demonstrate that the harm is imminent. *Amazing Insurance, Inc. v. Dimanno*, 2019 WL 3406941, at
14 *3 (E.D. Cal. July 26, 2019) (citing *Caribbean Marine Servs. Co. v. Baldrige*, 844 F.2d 668, 674 (9th
15 Cir. 1988) (“A plaintiff must do more than merely allege imminent harm sufficient to establish
16 standing; a plaintiff must *demonstrate* immediate threatened injury as a prerequisite to preliminary
17 injunctive relief.”)).

18 Second, the supposed harm it suffered is not related to the relief it seeks. BrandTotal contends
19 that it “suffered irreparable harm after Facebook’s actions related to *UpVoice Legacy*.” Mot. 29
20 (emphasis added). Not only is that assertion demonstrably false, but the relief BrandTotal seeks is an
21 injunction preventing Facebook from interfering with or implementing technical enforcement
22 measures against UpVoice 2021, not UpVoice Legacy. This is insufficient, because “[t]here must be
23 a ‘sufficient causal connection’ between the alleged irreparable harm and the activity to be enjoined,
24 and showing that ‘the requested injunction would forestall’ the irreparable harm qualifies as such a
25 connection.” *Nat'l Wildlife Fed'n v. Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv.*, 886 F.3d 803, 819 (9th Cir. 2018)
26 (quoting *Perfect 10 Inc. v. Google, Inc.*, 653 F.3d 976, 981-82 (9th Cir. 2011)). The required causal
27 connection is missing here because Facebook has taken no action, nor threatened to take any action,
28 with respect to UpVoice 2021.

1 **B. BrandTotal Has Not Shown That It Faces An Imminent Risk Of Harm**

2 Even if BrandTotal could show that the irreparable harm it has described is related to the relief
3 it seeks, the evidence BrandTotal does marshal is insufficient to meet its burden. While BrandTotal
4 continues to paint itself as a fledgling enterprise that has been forced to suspend parts of its business,
5 discovery paints a very different picture. On January 14, 2021, BrandTotal's CEO, Alon Leibovich
6 testified that BrandTotal had [REDACTED]. Ex. P at 22:19-20; *see also* Ex. Q
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED], even without accounting for incoming revenues. Ex.
12 P at 30:6-11.⁸ And BrandTotal continues to generate revenue from [REDACTED], *Id.*
13 at 54:10-11, with an estimated [REDACTED] in revenue in December 2020, *id.* at 33:3-9. BrandTotal also
14 continues to attract additional funding. In addition to the \$12 million in capital funding BrandTotal
15 received in September 2020, Dkt. 39 at 11, BrandTotal's CEO testified [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]. Ex. P at 45:16-47:3, 48:4-45.

17 In addition to its significant cash reserves, [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] That testimony directly contradicts
21 BrandTotal's prior representations to this Court. *See e.g.*, Dkt. 27-3 ¶ 4 ("Without relief, BrandTotal
22 ... cannot maintain current customers or secure new customers."). Incredibly, the very month that
23 BrandTotal's CEO made those representations, including attesting to the fact that "BrandTotal ha[d]
24 no incoming revenue," *id.* at ¶ 3, BrandTotal continued receiving payments from its customers,
25 [REDACTED]

26 _____
27 ⁸ Even with legal fees, BrandTotal's burn rate is only [REDACTED] per month. Leibovich Decl. ¶ 5.
28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 At most, BrandTotal has suffered reduced revenues and a few lost customers, but those “are
4 measurable and are best characterized as economic harms” that can be remedied through damages.
5 *Ebates Performance Mktg., Inc. v. Integral Techs., Inc.*, 2013 WL 75929, at *2 (N.D. Cal. 2013); see
6 also *Stardock Sys., Inc. v. Reiche*, 2018 WL 7348858, at *11 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 27, 2018) (“[L]oss of
7 revenue alone does not support a finding of irreparable harm.”). They do not, therefore, warrant
8 preliminary injunctive relief.

9 And while this Court recognized in its Order denying BrandTotal’s request for a temporary
10 restraining order that layoffs could be sufficient to show irreparable harm, Dkt. 58 at 17, discovery
11 has again revealed that BrandTotal’s claims were overstated, if not altogether untrue. See Dkt. 27-3
12 ¶ 56 (stating that BrandTotal “will be forced to immediately lay off employees”). In his declaration,
13 BrandTotal’s CEO states that [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] So, in truth, BrandTotal has [REDACTED] And BrandTotal
18 has made no showing that even that small net loss is not the result of normal turnover in tech startups
19 or the global pandemic or something else.

20 The idea that BrandTotal’s business is facing massive disruption is further belied by evidence
21 that BrandTotal continues to provide the same services to its customers through newly developed data
22 collection strategies and continued unauthorized collection from Facebook’s platform. BrandTotal
23 has assured customers that it is [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] Ex. O. That statement came just over a
25 month after BrandTotal told this court in its motion for a temporary restraining order that it faced
26 “destruction of [its] business,” Dkt. 27 at 3. BrandTotal’s CEO testified that [REDACTED]

27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] Ex. F at 123:17 – 124:1; Ex. L at 105:9-13. And BrandTotal apparently just launched
10 yet another iteration of UpVoice the day before filing its motion, UpVoice 2021, Mot. 15, [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]. Ex. L at 20:11-16, 56:2-57:17.
12 BrandTotal’s continued collection and provision of data to its customers undermines its claims,
13 including its prior statements to this Court, that its business is (or was) on the brink of destruction.

14 **C. Any Harm BrandTotal Has Shown Is Self-Inflicted**

15 As other cases in this district have recognized, the evaluation of irreparable harm “is guided
16 by the general notion that ‘self-inflicted wounds are not irreparable injury.’” *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple,*
17 *Inc.*, 2020 WL 5993222, at *17 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 9, 2020) (quoting *Al Otro Lado v. Wolf*, 952 F.3d 999,
18 1008 (9th Cir. 2020)). “Further courts generally decline to find irreparable harm that ‘results from the
19 express terms of [the] contract.’” *Id.* (quoting *Salt Lake Tribune Publ’g Co., LLC v. AT&T Corp.*, 320
20 F.3d 1081, 1106 (10th Cir. 2003)).

21 BrandTotal relies entirely on the takedown of its UpVoice Legacy extension by Google to
22 establish the requisite harm. But BrandTotal chose to structure its UpVoice Legacy extension in a
23 way that violates Facebook’s Terms of Service, terms to which BrandTotal agreed when it became a
24 user of the Facebook Platform. Documents produced by BrandTotal show that BrandTotal has known
25 of the risk that its products violate Facebook’s Terms of Service for years. [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] But that is not how contracts work. Having
8 executed contracts agreeing not to engage in the automated collection of data from Facebook,
9 BrandTotal cannot now complain of the harm resulting from Facebook enforcing those terms. Because
10 the harms it allegedly suffered as a result of the takedown of UpVoice Legacy are thus self-inflicted,
11 BrandTotal cannot meet its burden to show an irreparably injury.

12 **IV. BRANDTOTAL HAS NOT ESTABLISHED A LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS**

13 BrandTotal must show a likelihood of success on the merits of its claims in order to obtain the
14 “extraordinary remedy” of a preliminary injunction. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632
15 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011). It has not. At the threshold, there is a fundamental disconnect
16 between the prospective preliminary injunction it seeks and its retrospective amended counterclaims.
17 BrandTotal’s claims all challenge actions Facebook took with respect to UpVoice Legacy in
18 September 2020. But the preliminary injunction BrandTotal seeks is tied exclusively to UpVoice
19 2021, which BrandTotal launched *without interference from Facebook* in March 2021. Beyond that
20 basic flaw, BrandTotal’s interference and unfair competition claims fail because Facebook had a
21 legitimate justification for taking action against BrandTotal’s scraping in September 2020. And
22 BrandTotal offers no evidence to show that is likely to satisfy the elements of its interference and
23 unfair competition claims, relying instead on allegations in its FAC. It has therefore not met its burden
24 of *showing* that it is likely to succeed on the merits of its claims. As for BrandTotal’s declaratory
25 judgment claims, they are irrelevant to this motion because there is no connection between the
26 declarations that BrandTotal seeks and the preliminary *injunction* that is the subject of this motion.
27 Indeed, BrandTotal cannot obtain a preliminary declaration under the Declaratory Judgment Act.
28 Beyond that threshold issue, those claims fail on their own terms. For all these reasons, BrandTotal

1 is not likely to succeed on the merits of any of its claims and its motion can be denied on that basis
2 alone.

3 **A. BrandTotal Is Not Entitled To A Preliminary Injunction Because It Has Not**
4 **Shown A Likelihood Of Success On Any Claim Related To That Relief**

5 There must be a “sufficient nexus” between the relief sought in a preliminary injunction motion
6 and the claims asserted in the underlying complaint. *Pacific Radiation Oncology, LLC v. Queen’s*
7 *Med. Ctr.*, 810 F.3d 631, 636 (9th Cir. 2015). There is no such nexus here. BrandTotal seeks an order
8 enjoining Facebook from interfering with or taking any “technical enforcement measures” against
9 UpVoice 2021 and requiring Facebook to restore BrandTotal’s Facebook accounts, *see* Mot. at 35, but
10 it has not and could not state any claim with respect to UpVoice 2021 or the removal of its Facebook
11 accounts. BrandTotal is not, therefore, entitled to the relief it seeks.

12 BrandTotal cannot state any claim with respect to UpVoice 2021 because it has not even
13 alleged that Facebook has taken any action whatsoever with respect to the operation of UpVoice 2021.
14 BrandTotal alleges only that Facebook “did not grant permission” for UpVoice 2021, FAC ¶ 81, not
15 that Facebook has taken any action to interfere with its launch. Indeed, UpVoice 2021 launched on
16 March 11, 2021 with no interference. *See* Mot. at 15. It is therefore not surprising that BrandTotal’s
17 motion argues only that it is likely to succeed in showing that Facebook was not justified in taking
18 action against UpVoice Legacy. *See* Mot. at 31. BrandTotal makes no effort to show that it is likely
19 to succeed on any claim that Facebook interfered with or acted unfairly with respect to the launch of
20 UpVoice 2021, so it is not entitled to any preliminary injunctive relief with respect to UpVoice 2021.

21 Nor has BrandTotal shown any likelihood of success on any claim concerning the disabling of
22 its Facebook accounts. In its FAC, BrandTotal alleges that Facebook interfered with its existing
23 contracts by “suspend[ing] BrandTotal’s Facebook and Instagram pages” and thereby “preventing
24 BrandTotal’s ability to advertise on Facebook” to “recruit[] for new Panelists.” FAC ¶ 134. But
25 BrandTotal’s motion makes no effort to show how any alleged disruption to *recruitment* has interfered
26 with any existing contract. Indeed, BrandTotal’s claim cannot satisfy even the first element of an
27 intentional interference claim: “the existence of a valid contract.” *See Reeves v. Hanlon*, 33 Cal. 4th
28 1140, 1148 (2004). BrandTotal puts forth neither any evidence nor even argument that it has a valid

1 contract with any *potential* panelist. And to the extent that BrandTotal intended to state a claim for
2 interference with prospective economic advantage on this basis, that, too, would not be likely to
3 succeed. An interference with prospective economic advantage claim requires the existence of “an
4 economic relationship … with the probability of future economic benefit to the plaintiff.” *Korea*
5 *Supply Co. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, 29 Cal. 4th 1134, 1153 (2003). BrandTotal has not put forth
6 any facts showing that it was “reasonably probable” that a “prospective economic advantage would
7 have been realized” with any prospective panelist “but for [Facebook’s alleged] interference.” *AlterG,*
8 *Inc. v. Boost Treadmills LLC*, 388 F. Supp. 3d 1133, 1151 (N.D. Cal. 2019). Moreover, interference
9 with prospective economic advantage requires an independently wrongful act. *See Marin Tug &*
10 *Barge, Inc. v. Westport Petroleum, Inc.*, 271 F.3d 825, 831 (9th Cir. 2001). There was nothing
11 unlawful about terminating BrandTotal’s Facebook accounts in response to BrandTotal’s violation of
12 Facebook’s terms. *See infra* pp. 17-23; *see also Marin Tug*, 271 F.3d at 834 (refusal to deal is
13 “presumptively valid” and insufficient to support interference with prospective economic advantage
14 claim). BrandTotal’s failure to connect the relief it seeks to any viable claim is alone grounds to deny
15 the requested injunction.

16 **B. BrandTotal Is Not Likely To Succeed On Its Intentional Interference Claims Or**
17 **Unfair Competition Claims**

18 Rather than tie its claims to UpVoice 2021, BrandTotal argues for injunctive relief based on
19 actions Facebook took against UpVoice Legacy (and BrandTotal’s other apps and extensions). Even
20 setting aside the disconnect between such arguments and the relief BrandTotal seeks, BrandTotal fails
21 to show that it is likely to succeed on any challenge to Facebook’s enforcement of its terms against
22 UpVoice Legacy in September 2020. The extensive discovery BrandTotal collected only confirms
23 that Facebook acted for legitimate business reasons—to enforce its terms of service and to fulfill its
24 legal obligations under a consent order with the FTC—and not out of bad faith. And BrandTotal
25 makes no effort and submits no *evidence* to support any of the affirmative elements of its claims.

26 **1. Facebook’s Enforcement Actions Against BrandTotal Were Justified**
27 *a. Facebook was justified in enforcing its own contracts*

28 BrandTotal is not likely to succeed on its interference claims because Facebook was justified

1 in enforcing the terms of its contracts. Enforcing one's own contract is a legitimate purpose unless
2 shown to be a "sham ... designed for the specific purpose" of achieving some other impermissible
3 objective. *Webber v. Inland Empire Invs.*, 74 Cal. App. 4th 884, 902 (1999). Facebook's Terms of
4 Service prohibit users from "access[ing] or collect[ing] data ... using automated means (without
5 [Facebook's] prior permission." FAC ¶ 154. BrandTotal violated those terms when, prior to the
6 suspension of its accounts, it collected data by automated means through UpVoice Legacy and its
7 other apps and extensions. *See Order on MTD* (Dkt. 108), at 11 (holding that BrandTotal's data
8 collection violated Facebook's terms). That Facebook has a legitimate reason to enforce its prohibition
9 on automated collection is further underscored by the fact that BrandTotal has *the same* provision in
10 its own Terms of Service. *See Mehta Decl. Ex. 3, BrandTotal, Service Terms and Conditions.*

11 Despite receiving thousands of pages of Facebook documents and deposing multiple 30(b)(6)
12 designees, BrandTotal has not put forth any evidence of bad faith. Rather, as the evidence shows,
13 Facebook took action against BrandTotal because it was "one of the most aggressive scrapers
14 [Facebook had] encountered, ... com[ing] back to the platform, more aggressively and with greater
15 sophistication." Ex. A at 1169. Facebook determined that BrandTotal's scraping put user information
16 at risk by collecting personally identifying information ("PII"). Ex. EE at 1126-1127. And because
17 BrandTotal's extensions had been installed over a million times, Ex. A at 1166, they had a significant
18 "attack surface" capable of "multiply[ing] [their] damage," Ex. G at 52:16-23.¹⁰

19 In the face of that evidence, BrandTotal suggests that Facebook's enforcement actions were
20 taken in bad faith because Facebook had previously determined that "BrandTotal's code was
21 'harmless,'" Mot. at 31, but the evidence shows that not to be true. Rather, Facebook determined that
22 BrandTotal's earlier apps (not UpVoice or Ads Feed) presented "strong concern on the data security
23 and business integrity front." Dkt. 125-24 at 14655. Analyzing the code revealed that while the apps
24 themselves were "harmless" in that they did not [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] *Id.* at 14657 (emphases added). Far from harmless,

26
27 ¹⁰ Indeed, in March 2020, Facebook detected 34 Google Chrome extensions scraping user and ad
28 data. Those extensions covered approximately 1.7 million users installs in total, with over 1 million
of those accounted for by BrandTotal's extensions. Ex. A at 1166.

1 Facebook considered that worthy of “enforcement” and possibly “legal action.” *Id.* But before
2 Facebook needed to take such action, the apps had already been “actioned and taken down” from the
3 Google Play Store. *Id.* at 14656.

4 And BrandTotal is wrong as a matter of fact and law that any bad faith can be inferred from
5 Facebook’s email to Google. See Mot. at 32-33. Facebook communicated to Google its “belie[f]”
6 that BrandTotal was “improperly scraping user PII (e.g. gender, relationship status, ad interests, etc.),
7 without [a] proper disclosure.” Dkt. 126-11 at 16959. That was accurate. BrandTotal misrepresented
8 to its users that Facebook was a “participating site[],” calling into question the validity of any
9 purported consent to collect users’ information that BrandTotal may have received. Cf. *Pulido v.
10 Unitrin, Inc.*, 2007 WL 781222 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 9, 2007) (consent to terms of contract invalid if
11 obtained by means of material misrepresentation). And [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] Ex. L at 60:12-16, which can include personally-identifying
13 information like an individual’s first and last name, user ID, and location, Ex. B at 104:18-105:11, or
14 from “Panelists” that never agreed to BrandTotal’s terms because of the shared computer problem that
15 existed, see TRO Order at 25, n. 12. And in any event, even an “unfounded opinion” regarding
16 suspected misconduct is a protected statement that cannot form the basis of tort liability. *Savage v.
17 Pacific Gas & Elec. Co.*, 21 Cal. App. 4th 434, 450-451 (1993) (holding that, given the “social value
18 in allowing business contacts of enterprises dealing with the public to comment freely on matters
19 affecting their own or the public interest,” even “unfounded opinion” of misconduct could not form
20 basis of interference claim).

21 Moreover, while BrandTotal attempts to conjure some anticompetitive motivation from the
22 fact that several Facebook advertising partners inquired about BrandTotal, see Mot. at 9, the evidence
23 shows that those inquiries were irrelevant to the decision to take enforcement action. Indeed,
24 Facebook notified Google about BrandTotal’s extensions *before* any of those inquiries. Compare Dkt.
25 No. 126-11 at 16959 (Sept. 21, 2020 email to Google) with Dkt. 126-10 (Sept. 22, 2020 email
26 regarding inquiries about BrandTotal), Dkt. 125-26 (same), Dkt. 126-12 (Sept. 24, 2020
27 communications regarding inquiries about BrandTotal). Contrary to the narrative that BrandTotal
28 attempts to stitch together, Facebook’s enforcement decision was not part of any anti-competitive

1 scheme to cut off access to commercial advertising metrics. It was, instead, a fairly routine
2 enforcement of a common term also used by other sites (including BrandTotal), as part of Facebook's
3 "agnostic" policy against scraping, Ex. G at 127:12-128:11; Dkt. 125-34. The evidence shows that
4 Facebook regularly takes action to enforce its terms against data scraping of all forms, including of
5 user information, Ex. Y, location data, Ex. Z, and photos, Exs. AA & BB; *see also infra* pp. 22-23;
6 Dkt. 125-34. In this case, as a Facebook malware researcher testified, the decision to take enforcement
7 action against BrandTotal was based solely on the severity of its conduct, not any consideration of the
8 business purposes to which BrandTotal put the scraped data. *See* Ex. G at 76:21-77:8, 128:5-11.
9 Indeed, BrandTotal's theory of anticompetitive motive is further belied by BrandTotal's own
10 recognition that [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]
12 BrandTotal is also wrong that Facebook's legitimate enforcement of its terms of service can
13 be disregarded on the ground that the terms are unenforceable. In pressing that argument, BrandTotal
14 points only to the California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA"), which provides that contracts "that
15 purport[] to waive or limit in any way a consumer's rights under [the CCPA] ... shall be deemed
16 contrary to public policy." Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.192. That is irrelevant here, because the CCPA
17 does not grant consumers the right to authorize third-party data scraping. Rather, it grants consumers'
18 limited rights to be informed about the personal information that a company has collected or will
19 collect about them, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.100, 1798.110, 1798.115, to request that their personal
20 information be deleted, *id.* § 1798.105, to "opt-out" of the sale of their personal information, *id.*
21 § 1798.120, and to not be discriminated against for exercising their rights under the CCPA, *id.*
22 § 1798.125. None of those rights are implicated here. *See* Order on TRO (Dkt. 63), at 22 n.11.

23 b. *Facebook was justified in acting in fulfillment of its obligations under*
24 *an FTC consent order*

25 Facebook was also separately justified in taking action against BrandTotal's scraping in light
26 of Facebook's obligations under the FTC consent order. Under that order, Facebook is required to
27 maintain a privacy program with "safeguards" that control for risks to Covered Information, including
28 a policy for "[e]nforcing against any Covered Third Party violations of [its] Platform Terms based

1 solely on the severity, nature, and impact of the violation; [and] the Covered Third Party's malicious
2 conduct or history of violations." FAC Ex. C at 8-9; *see also* Dkt. 125-34 (Facebook's procedures for
3 the investigation, enforcement, and reporting of scraping incidents). Under the order, "Covered
4 Information" includes user IDs or any form of "Nonpublic User Information," and "Covered Third
5 Party" is defined as any "entity that uses or receives Covered Information ... outside of a User-initiated
6 transfer ... as part of a data portability protocol or standard." *Id.* at 3.

7 BrandTotal appears to concede that UpVoice Legacy collected "Covered Information," *see*
8 Mot. at 26,¹¹ but now argues it is not a "Covered Third Party" because it collects data as part of a data
9 portability protocol. *See* Mot. 26-27.¹² This argument misses the mark. The International
10 Organization for Standardization, on which BrandTotal relies, *see id.*, describes data portability as
11 standard processes by which "cloud service customers ... [can] move *their* data or applications
12 between non-cloud and one or more could services and between cloud services." ISO, *Information*
13 *Technology – Cloud computing – Interoperability and portability*, <https://tinyurl.com/3c443pse> (last
14 accessed Apr. 9, 2021) (emphasis added). BrandTotal's own expert similarly explains that data
15 portability refers to procedures facilitating the transfer of users' *own* personal data. Hartzog Decl. ¶¶
16 50-51. Typically, this includes the "photos or posts" that a user has herself "uploaded to the service."
17 *Id.* ¶ 51; *see also* Ex. B at 98:25-100:2. Data portability protocols, then, include standard processes
18 like Facebook's photo sharing tool by which users can transfer their photos from Facebook to Google
19 Photos. *See* Facebook, *Driving Innovation in Data Portability With a New Photo Transfer Tool* (Dec.
20 2, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/4txcm728>.

21 Scraping content without authorization—outside the data portability tools that Facebook has
22

23 ¹¹ BrandTotal argues only that UpVoice 2021 does not collect Covered Information. But whether
24 UpVoice 2021 collects Covered Information is irrelevant to whether Facebook was justified in
taking enforcement action against UpVoice Legacy. And in any event, BrandTotal is wrong that
UpVoice 2021 does not collect Covered Information. Through UpVoice 2021, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED], Ex. L at 20:11-16—which, for individual advertisers, is that person's
Facebook ID, Ex. B at 49:14-16—[REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED] Ex. L at 20:11-16; Ex. B at 102:25-103:11.

27 ¹² In its Order dismissing BrandTotal's counterclaims, this Court noted that "BrandTotal appears to
28 meet the definition of a 'Covered Third Party.'" Dkt. 108 at 15. And BrandTotal's own counsel at
the hearing on its motion for a TRO admitted he "thought [BrandTotal] would be" a Covered Third
Party. Dkt. 57 at 8:24-25.

1 provided—does not constitute a “protocol or standard” for a user to transfer his or her own data. That
2 is especially so because BrandTotal has collected and continues to collect information [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] See Ex. L at 20:3-10; Ex. C at 28:2-4, 68:8-12, 80:23-81:1 (explaining that
5 advertising information belongs to the advertising users that created the ad). And UpVoice Legacy
6 collected users’ advertising-interest information that Facebook had inferred based on users’ activities
7 on Facebook. Mehta Decl. Ex. 5 at ¶ 17(b); accord Dkt. 126-21 at 13-15 (data portability protocols
8 should apply only with respect to a user’s own personal data, not data that a “service provider infers
9 about” the user). Accordingly, BrandTotal’s scraping activity does not fall within the FTC order’s
10 exception for user-initiated transfers as part of a data portability protocol.

11 BrandTotal also contends that “a Federal Consent Order does not excuse violation of a third-
12 parties’ rights under State law.” Mot. at 28. But it is state law itself that allows for a legitimate purpose
13 to excuse otherwise unlawful conduct. See *Savage*, 21 Cal. App. 4th at 449-450 (explaining that under
14 California law, justification excuses any alleged interference). The issue is not, therefore, whether the
15 consent order permits conduct that violates state law but whether, under state law, compliance with
16 the consent order justifies Facebook’s conduct. And California law is clear that “complying with legal
17 requirements” is a “legitimate business interest.” *Semler v. General Elec. Capital Corp.*, 196 Cal.
18 App. 4th 1380, 1393 (2011). Accordingly, Facebook cannot be held liable for acting to fulfill its
19 obligations under the FTC order.

20 And even if Facebook’s motivations for complying with its legal obligations were relevant,
21 but see Order on MTD at 15, BrandTotal has not set forth any evidence that Facebook’s enforcement
22 actions were taken in bad faith. Rather the evidence shows that, consistent with its obligations under
23 the FTC order, Facebook enforced against BrandTotal based solely on the severity, nature, and impact
24 of its violation. See supra pp. 20-21. Fulfilling its obligations under the consent order, Facebook has
25 neutral procedures for investigating, enforcing against, and reporting to the FTC scraping incidents
26 covered under the FTC Order. See Ex. B at 86:24-89:4; Dkt. 125-34. Facebook followed those
27 procedures here. Ex. B at 33:10-35:20. And there is no evidence that Facebook’s compliance with its
28 obligations under the FTC order is in any way shaped by anti-competitive motivations. Tellingly,

despite seeking discovery for the express purpose of attempting to show that Facebook “selectively report[s] entities [to the FTC] that … offer competitive advertising analytics services,” Dkt. 95 at 1-3, BrandTotal nowhere argues that Facebook’s reporting of BrandTotal to the FTC was anything other than a neutral application of its reporting procedures. Indeed, of the [REDACTED] unique entities reported to the FTC between March 2020 and January 11, 2021, Facebook is aware of [REDACTED] that provide advertising analytic services. Ex. D at 6-7; Ex. B at 119:14-121:6. Discovery has thus confirmed what has been clear all along: the nature of BrandTotal’s business played no part in Facebook’s decision to investigate and take enforcement action against UpVoice Legacy or BrandTotal’s other apps and extensions. *See* Ex. G at 76:21-77:8, 128:5-11.

**2. BrandTotal Does Not Even Attempt To Show That It Is Likely To Succeed
On The Elements Of Its Interference And Unfair Competition Claims**

As to the actual elements of its claims, BrandTotal argues only that its FAC “*alleges* … the other elements of interference with contracts and prospective contracts and unfair competition.” Mot. at 32 (emphasis added). But it has not met its burden to *show* a likelihood of success. BrandTotal’s failure to support its claims with actual evidence in its opening brief is alone grounds to deny the motion. *See TAP Mfg., LLC v. Signs*, 2015 WL 12762269, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2015) (preliminary injunctive relief “requires factual support beyond the allegations of the complaint”). And in any event, the evidence shows that BrandTotal is not likely to prevail on its claims.¹³

a. BrandTotal is not likely to prevail on its contract interference claim

“The elements of a cause of action for intentional interference with contractual relations are (1) the existence of a valid contract between the plaintiff and a third party; (2) the defendant’s knowledge of that contract; (3) the defendant’s intentional acts designed to induce a breach or disruption of the contractual relationship; (4) actual breach or disruption of the contractual relationships; and (5) resulting damage.” *Jenni Rivera Enters. LLC v. Latin World Entm’t Holdings*,

¹³ To the extent BrandTotal attempts to introduce new evidence to support its claims in its reply brief, that evidence should be disregarded. Fairness requires that BrandTotal present its full case in its opening brief and forfeits reliance on any evidence or argument that appears for the first time in reply. *See Sleep Science Partners Inc. v. Lieberman*, 2010 WL 4316687, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2010) (arguments first raised in reply “improperly deprive[] defendants of the opportunity to respond” and are therefore deemed waived).

1 *Inc.*, 36 Cal. App. 5th 766, 785 (2019). BrandTotal has failed to show that it is likely to satisfy those
2 elements with respect to its claims that Facebook has interfered with its contracts with clients,
3 panelists, investors, or Google.

4 As to contracts with customers, BrandTotal presents no evidence that Facebook had
5 “knowledge of the contract with which [it allegedly] interfere[ed],” as is required to state a claim. *Id.*
6 at 783. BrandTotal points only to internal Facebook emails referencing BrandTotal’s contractual
7 relationship with Fiat Chrysler, *see* Mot. at 32 (citing Dkt. Nos. 120-7 & 120-8), but there is no
8 evidence that that relationship has been disrupted in any way. Indeed, in identifying [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] Ex. P at 39:10-40:1. And in any event, those emails came *after* Facebook
11 sent its notice to Google. *See supra* pp. 19-20. BrandTotal points to no evidence that Facebook had
12 knowledge of any customer contract with which Facebook allegedly interfered.

13 Nor is there evidence that Facebook knew that any interference with BrandTotal’s customer
14 contracts “was certain or substantially certain to occur as a result of [Facebook’s enforcement] action,”
15 as is required to satisfy this tort’s intent element. *Reeves v. Hanlon*, 33 Cal. 4th 1140, 1148 (2004).
16 BrandTotal argues that Facebook knew that Google would respond to Facebook’s email by removing
17 BrandTotal’s extensions, *see* Mot. at 32, but, even assuming that to be true, that is insufficient to
18 establish the requisite knowledge of interference. Prior to its email to Google, Facebook knew that an
19 extension’s “removal from [the] Chrome Store does not remove the plugin,” Ex. A at 1174, meaning
20 that already-installed extensions continue to operate even after Google takes them down.¹⁴ There is,
21 therefore, no evidence that Facebook knew that its email to Google would interfere with BrandTotal’s
22 ability to perform any of its obligations under its existing contracts with customers.

23 Likewise, BrandTotal presents no evidence that panelists had any contractual obligation to
24 share their information with BrandTotal. It offers no argument that it is likely to succeed on that claim.

25 As to investors, BrandTotal’s FAC alleges vaguely that its “relations with its investors” have
26 been harmed, FAC ¶ 141, but there is no evidence that any contract has been breached or duty the
27 performance of which has been rendered more burdensome. In his declaration, Mr. Leibovich states
28

¹⁴ And that is, indeed, [REDACTED]. *See* Ex. F at 91:19-93:6.

1 only that [REDACTED] Dkt.
2 125-10 at ¶ 9, but not that any *current* investor either withdrew funding that it had agreed to provide
3 or reneged on any obligation to provide additional funding.

4 Finally, BrandTotal similarly fails to provide any evidence or even argument showing that it
5 is likely to succeed in its claim that Facebook’s “conduct has caused and will disrupt or cause the
6 breach of BrandTotal’s valid contracts with Google,” FAC ¶ 146. This is, perhaps, because
7 BrandTotal’s contract with Google has not been disrupted. Prior to any enforcement by Facebook,
8 Google had removed several of BrandTotal’s apps and extensions *pursuant to* its Google Chrome Web
9 Store Developer Agreement, which provides that Google may, at any time, remove extensions that
10 violate a third party’s terms of services. *See Chrome Web Store, Google Chrome Web Store Developer*
11 *Agreement* at §§ 4.4.1, 7.2, <https://tinyurl.com/557xxxrc> (last accessed Apr. 9, 2021). And removing
12 an extension does not terminate the Developer Agreement, which exists between Google and a
13 developer until terminated by either party. *See id.* at § 10. As Mr. Dor testified, [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED], Ex. F at 97:10-11, and BrandTotal has at least
15 one extension available through the Chrome Web Store, *see Chrome Web Store, Desktop for*
16 *Instagram*, <https://tinyurl.com/4tz2ehzp> (last accessed Apr. 9, 2021). BrandTotal, therefore, has not
17 shown a likelihood of success on any of its interference with contract claims.

18 b. *BrandTotal is not likely to prevail on its interference with prospective*
19 *economic advantage claim*

20 To prevail on its claim for tortious interference with prospective economic advantage,
21 BrandTotal must show: (1) an economic relationship between it and a third party, “with the probability
22 of future economic benefit”; (2) Facebook’s “knowledge of the relationship”; (3) “intentional acts on
23 the part of [Facebook] designed to disrupt the relationship”; (4) “actual disruption of the relationship”;
24 and (5) economic harm proximately caused by those intentional acts. *Korea Supply Co. v. Lockheed*
25 *Martin Corp.*, 29 Cal. 4th 1134, 1153 (2003). And because there is “a broader range of privilege to
26 interfere ... when the relationship or economic advantage interfered with is only prospective,” *Pacific*
27 *Gas & Elec. Co. v. Bear Stearns & Co.*, 50 Cal. 3d 1118, 1126 (1990), BrandTotal must also show
28 that Facebook’s conduct “was wrongful by some legal measure other than the fact of interference

1 itself,” *Della Penna v. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.*, 11 Cal. 4th 376, 393 (1995).

2 BrandTotal’s motion presents neither evidence nor even any argument that it is likely to
3 succeed in establishing any of these elements. For this reason alone, BrandTotal is not entitled to any
4 preliminary injunctive relief on the basis of its intentional interference with prospective economic
5 advantage claim. *See TAP Mfg., LLC*, 2015 WL 12762269, at *1 (party seeking preliminary injunction
6 must produce “factual support beyond the allegations of the complaint”).

7 BrandTotal’s silence on this point is not surprising, because the evidence shows that
8 BrandTotal cannot establish that any of the prospective relationships with which Facebook allegedly
9 interfered had any probability of future benefit. During his deposition, Mr. Leibovich could offer only

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]¹⁵ Ex. P at 73:18-19, 105:20-106:8, 113:4-11, 120:22-121:24. *See also Youst v.*
13 *Longo*, 43 Cal. 3d 64, 71 (1987) (plaintiff must show that it is “reasonably *probable* that the lost
14 economic advantage would have been realized but for the defendant’s interference”).

15 The evidence also shows that Facebook’s actions were not independently wrongful. To the
16 contrary, Facebook had every legitimate and neutral reason to take enforcement action against
17 BrandTotal’s repeated scraping activity. *See supra* pp. 17-23. BrandTotal has not and could not show
18 that it is likely to succeed on its interference with prospective economic advantage claim.

19 c. *BrandTotal is not likely to prevail on its unfair competition claim*

20 BrandTotal asserts that Facebook engaged in the three types of wrongful conduct prohibited
21 by the California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.* (“UCL”): “unlawful” business acts
22 or practice, “unfair” business acts or practice, and “fraudulent” business acts or practice. *See* FAC
23 ¶¶ 170-197; Mot. at 32-33. But the single paragraph that BrandTotal devotes to this argument in its
24 motion for preliminary injunction falls far short of satisfying BrandTotal’s burden to establish a

25
26¹⁵ During his deposition, Mr. Leibovich identified [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED] See Ex. P at 54:16-19, 56:13-23. To be actionable, the failure to
28 renew a contract must satisfy the elements of an interference with prospective economic advantage
claim, not interference with contract. *See Ixchel Pharma, LLC v. Biogen, Inc.*, 9 Cal. 5th 1130, 1147
(2020). Accordingly, there must have been a reasonable probability that the former customers would
have renewed but for Facebook’s alleged interference.

1 likelihood of success on any of these prongs.

2 ***Unlawful Prong.*** In its amended complaint, BrandTotal alleges that “Facebook’s tortious
3 interference with BrandTotal’s current and prospective business, contractual, and investor
4 relationships are unlawful.” FAC ¶ 186. But, as described at *supra* pp. 23-25, BrandTotal has not
5 established any tortious interference violation, nor has it made any argument in its preliminary
6 injunction brief as to how Facebook’s conduct is otherwise unlawful. Because BrandTotal cannot
7 establish a likelihood of prevailing on its tortious interference claims, this derivative claim must also
8 fail. *See Aleksick v. 7-Eleven*, 205 Cal. App. 4th 1176, 1185 (2012) (“When a statutory claim fails, a
9 derivative UCL claim also fails.”); MTD Order at 16 (dismissing counterclaim under the “unlawful”
10 prong that was “based on its theories of tortious interference”).

11 ***Unfair Prong.*** BrandTotal also asserts that “Facebook’s termination of access to the Facebook
12 network and false allegations in the take-down notice to Google were monopolist and anti-competitive,
13 not just as to BrandTotal, but as part of a corporate policy to stifle all competition and monopolize
14 commercial advertising data on its site.” Mot. at 33. BrandTotal’s theory under the UCL’s “unfair”
15 prong is that Facebook was (and is) required to aid its alleged competitors by providing them
16 “commercial advertising data on its site.” Mot. at 33. This theory—and not the challenged conduct—
17 is anathema to the policy and spirit of the antitrust laws. “[T]here is no duty to aid competitors.”
18 *MetroNet Servs. Corp. v. Qwest Corp.*, 383 F.3d 1124, 1131 (9th Cir. 2004). To the contrary,
19 “compelling negotiation between competitors may facilitate the supreme evil of antitrust: collusion.”
20 *Verizon Commc’ns Inc. v. Law Offices of Curtis V. Trinko, LLP*, 540 U.S. 398, 408 (2004). Applying
21 these principles, the California Court of Appeal has held that “the mere refusal to deal does not violate
22 the spirit or policy of antitrust law.” *People’s Choice Wireless, Inc. v. Verizon Wireless*, 131 Cal. App.
23 4th 656, 667 (2005). Instead, a plaintiff relying on a refusal to deal theory under the UCL must satisfy
24 the same standard as federal antitrust law: establishing that (1) the defendant has conducted “an abuse
25 of monopoly power in a relevant market” and (2) an “exception” to the “sacrosanct” right to refuse to
26 deal applies. *Id.* BrandTotal does not come close to satisfying either requirement.

27 BrandTotal cannot establish an abuse of monopoly power in a relevant market because it has
28 provided no evidence of how the “relevant market” should be defined. “Without a definition of the

1 relevant market, the existence of market power ... cannot be assessed.” *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple*
2 *Inc.*, 2020 WL 5993222, at *9 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 9, 2020). The determination of a “relevant market” is
3 “a highly factual question.” *Id.* at *8. Accordingly, when a plaintiff fails to establish “the record to
4 define the relevant antitrust market,” the plaintiff “has not established likelihood of success” on a
5 monopolization-based claim. *Id.* at *12. Here, BrandTotal offers *no evidence* to establish a relevant
6 market. Instead, BrandTotal merely declares that the relevant market is “commercial advertising data
7 on [Facebook’s] site.” Mot. at 33. This is insufficient. And the lack of such evidence is unsurprising,
8 as the Ninth Circuit has recognized that “many courts have rejected antitrust claims reliant on proposed
9 advertising markets limited to a single form of advertising.” *Hicks v. PGA Tour, Inc.*, 897 F.3d 1109,
10 1123 (9th Cir. 2018). BrandTotal cannot arbitrarily gerrymander a market that is “not natural,
11 artificial, and contorted to meet [its] litigation needs.” *Id.* at 1121 (internal quotation marks omitted).
12 Moreover, attempting to establish a market comprised of only Facebook’s site is doubly problematic
13 because, in general, a company’s “own products do not themselves comprise a relevant product
14 market.” *Apple, Inc. v. Pystar Corp.*, 586 F. Supp. 2d 1190, 1198 (N.D. Cal. 2008). Such single-
15 brand markets are, “at a minimum, extremely rare.” *Id.*

16 Even beyond this threshold defect, BrandTotal has also failed to establish that Facebook’s
17 conduct fits within an accepted “exception” to the otherwise “sacrosanct” “right to refuse to deal.”
18 *People’s Choice Wireless*, 131 Cal. App. 4th at 667. Courts are “very cautious” to recognize any
19 exceptions to the refusal to deal principle. *Trinko*, 540 U.S. at 408. The Supreme Court recognized
20 such an exception in *Aspen Skiing Co. v. Aspen Highlands Skiing Corp.*, 472 U.S. 585 (1985), but that
21 case is “at or near the outer boundary of [Sherman Act] § 2 liability,” *Trinko*, 540 U.S. at 409; *Reveal*
22 *Chat Holdco, LLC v. Facebook, Inc.*, 471 F. Supp. 3d 981, 1002 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (summarizing “three
23 significant factors” present in *Aspen Skiing* that justified exception). BrandTotal has provided *no*
24 evidence to satisfy this limited exception to the general rule and thus cannot show a likelihood of
25 success on the merits. *See, e.g., Huawei Techs., Co, Ltd. v. Samsung Elecs. Co, Ltd.*, 340 F. Supp. 3d
26 934, 953 (N.D. Cal. 2018) (“Because Samsung has offered no evidence that Huawei has outright
27 refused to deal with Samsung, *Aspen Skiing* offers no relief here.” (internal quotation marks omitted)).
28 To the contrary, BrandTotal’s alleged facts affirmatively *defeat* several prerequisites to invoke the

1 *Aspen Skiing* exception. See Dkt. 132 at 19-21.

2 The Ninth Circuit has affirmed the denial of a preliminary injunction when the movant failed
3 to offer “proof of some actual or threatened impact on competition.” *Aspex Eyewear, Inc. v. Vision*
4 *Service Plan*, 389 F. App’x 664, 666 (9th Cir. 2010). Here, like in *Aspex Eyewear*, given the lack of
5 evidence put forward by BrandTotal, “any conclusion on this record that [the alleged conduct] would
6 diminish competition in the relevant market would be speculative.” *Id.*

7 **Fraudulent Prong.** The Court dismissed *with prejudice* BrandTotal’s UCL claim “to the
8 extent” it was based on the “fraudulent” prong. MTD Order at 17-18. BrandTotal’s attempt to revive
9 its “fraudulent” prong claim is in improper circumvention of this Court’s dismissal with prejudice.
10 Moreover, BrandTotal’s newest theory under the “fraudulent” prong is unlikely to succeed on the
11 merits. BrandTotal now attempts to base its claim on “Facebook’s past dealings and
12 misrepresentations and fraudulent statements to Google.” Mot. at 33. But the “fraudulent” prong
13 requires a litigant “to show deception to some members of the public, or harm to the public interest,
14 and not merely to the direct competitor.” *Watson Labs., Inc. v. Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Inc.*, 178 F.
15 Supp. 2d 1099, 1121 (C.D. Cal. 2001). Such a “direct competitor” is “not entitled” to the protection
16 of the fraudulent prong of the UCL for alleged harm to itself “because it is not a member of the public
17 or a consumer entitled to such protection.”¹⁶ *Id.* For this reason, BrandTotal’s claim under the
18 “fraudulent” prong is unlikely to succeed.

19 **C. BrandTotal’s Declaratory Judgment Claims Cannot Support The Preliminary**
20 **Injunction That It Seeks**

21 BrandTotal’s claims for declaratory relief do not entitle them to an injunction against
22 Facebook. *First*, a declaration on the legality of BrandTotal’s actions has no relation to its requested
23 relief, which seeks to enjoin some allegedly unlawful action by Facebook. *Second*, BrandTotal has
24 not sought any sort of preliminary declaration, it seeks only a preliminary *injunction*. But even if it
25 had, any request for a preliminary declaration would be improper under the Declaratory Judgment Act.
26

27 ¹⁶ Neither is Google a member of the public, as “[s]ophisticated companies … are not members of
28 the ‘general public.’” *Nat’l Rural Telecommunications Co-op v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 319 F. Supp. 2d
1059, 1078 n.28 (C.D. Cal. 2003) (quoting *Rosenbluth Int’l, Inc. v. Superior Court*, 101 Cal. App.
4th 1073 (2002)).

1 Finally, BrandTotal’s claims for declaratory relief are unlikely to succeed on their own terms because
2 its own conduct, as alleged, violates the very statutes under which it seeks declaratory relief.

3 **1. BrandTotal’s Declaratory Judgment Claims Are Irrelevant**

4 There is no need for the Court even to consider BrandTotal’s claims for declaratory relief
5 because they have nothing to do with the preliminary injunction that BrandTotal seeks in this motion.
6 Through its claims for declaratory relief, BrandTotal seeks to establish that it did not violate the law—
7 and in particular that it did not violate the CFAA, CDAFA, or interfere with Facebook’s contractual
8 relationships with users. FAC ¶¶ 100, 109, 116. To enjoin Facebook from taking some action,
9 however, BrandTotal must show not that BrandTotal acted lawfully, but that *Facebook* acted
10 unlawfully. “An injunction is a ‘remedy potentially available only after a plaintiff can make a showing
11 that some independent legal right is being infringed—if the plaintiff’s rights have not been violated,
12 he is not entitled to any relief, injunctive or otherwise.’” *Alabama v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*,
13 424 F.3d 1117, 1127 (11th Cir. 2005); *see also McCoy v. Stronach*, 2020 WL 4200084, at *2 (E.D.
14 Cal. July 22, 2020) (“[A]n injunction is only available when the ‘complaint states a sound basis for
15 equitable relief.’” (citation omitted)). Because resolving BrandTotal’s claims for declaratory relief
16 would have no bearing on BrandTotal’s entitlement to a preliminary injunction, they are irrelevant.

17 Moreover, BrandTotal seeks only a preliminary injunction; it has not requested any kind of
18 preliminary *declaratory* relief based on its three declaratory judgment claims. But to the extent
19 BrandTotal attempts to seek such a declaration in its reply brief, such an attempt would not only be
20 waived; it would also be improper because the Court lacks authority to provide a preliminary
21 declaratory judgment. The Declaratory Judgment Act authorizes courts to declare the parties’ rights
22 in a “*final judgment*.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a). And if the requisite standards are met, this Court may
23 issue a preliminary *injunction*. But no authorizes this Court to issue a preliminary *declaration*. *See*
24 *Breedlove v. Am.’s Servicing Co.*, 2010 WL 1338089, at *1 n.1 (D. Ariz. Mar. 31, 2010) (declining to
25 issue preliminary declaratory relief because “[d]eclaratory relief and preliminary injunctions are
26 governed by different standards and are considered at different stages of litigation”).

27 **2. BrandTotal Is Not Likely To Succeed On Its Declarator Judgment Claims**

28 Beyond those threshold hurdles, BrandTotal’s own allegations and the evidence show that it is

1 engaging in the very violations for which it seeks declarations. In Counterclaim III, BrandTotal seeks
2 a declaration that it has not interfered with Facebook's contracts with users. But under their contracts
3 with Facebook, users agree not to "collect[] data from [Facebook] using automated means" or "give
4 access to their [Facebook] account." Compl. ¶ 26. UpVoice 2021 works by [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]
6 Ex. L at 47:12-16, by automated means, Order on MTD at 11. By relying on its panelists to login to
7 their Facebook accounts to gain access to Facebook, BrandTotal caused panelists to violate the terms
8 of their contracts with Facebook.

9 In Counterclaims I and II, BrandTotal seeks declarations that it does not violate the CFAA and
10 CDAFA. Both prohibit accessing a computer without permission or "after such permission has been
11 revoked explicitly." *Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*, 844 F.3d 1058, 1067 (9th Cir. 2016).
12 BrandTotal concedes that Facebook revoked BrandTotal's permission to access the Facebook
13 networks, FAC ¶ 162, and admits that it continued to collect information from password-protected
14 locations on Facebook's computers after October 2020. *Id.* at ¶¶ 51-54, 60, 76. BrandTotal's
15 contention that the CFAA and CDAFA are inapplicable because it collects "public" information with
16 user consent has already been squarely rejected by the Ninth Circuit. As the Ninth Circuit explained
17 in *hiQ*, the CFAA's "prohibition on unauthorized access" applies to "information delineated as private
18 through use of a permission requirement of some sort[,] ... such as a password gate." 938 F.3d at
19 1001. Accordingly, "gathering user data that was protected by Facebook's username and password
20 authentication system" without authorization violates the CFAA. *Id.* at 1002. BrandTotal is not likely
21 to succeed on the merits of any of its counterclaims against Facebook. Its request for a preliminary
22 injunction can and should be denied on that basis alone.

23 **V. THE BALANCE OF EQUITIES WEIGHS AGAINST EXTRAORDINARY RELIEF**

24 BrandTotal has not met its burden to show that the balance of equities tips in its favor.
25 *Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky*, 586 F.3d 1109, 1138-39 (9th Cir. 2009). BrandTotal's claim that the equities
26 weigh in its favor because it purportedly faces extinction if it is not permitted to scrape Facebook's
27 platform is belied by the discovery to date. While this Court "assume[d] for the sake of argument" in
28 its Order denying BrandTotal's motion for a TRO that the balance of equities tip in BrandTotal's favor,

1 Dkt. 58 at 31, the facts underlying that assumption are undermined by the record. In making that
2 assumption, the Court concluded that “BrandTotal is not able to operate its business while it lacks
3 access to Facebook’s products … [that] BrandTotal is losing customers, faces new difficulty attracting
4 investment, and is at risk of eventually shutting down.” *Id.* As discussed *supra* pp. 11-14, BrandTotal
5 is continuing to access data from the Facebook platform through its Phoenix and Social One
6 applications, has hired new employees, signed new customers and renewed major contracts, is in open
7 discussion with investors about future investment, and has sufficient revenue to continue operating for
8 more than a year.

9 As this Court recognized in its Order denying BrandTotal’s motion for a TRO, “Facebook has
10 legitimate interests in maintaining public confidence in its products and avoiding potential liability for
11 data privacy breaches.” Dkt. 58 at 30. Given the lack of evidence of any precarity in BrandTotal’s
12 financial position, the balance of equities tips in favor of Facebook. That is especially true where
13 discovery has revealed further evidence of BrandTotal’s unclean hands. BrandTotal made the decision
14 to violate Facebook’s terms, and thus is responsible for its dilemma. *See Facebook, Inc. v. Power*
15 *Ventures, Inc.*, 252 F. Supp. 3d 765, 784 (N.D. Cal. 2017), *aff’d*, 749 F. App’x 557 (9th Cir. 2019)
16 (balance of hardships weighed in favor of permanent injunction even though injunction threatened
17 Power Ventures’ livelihood). Where BrandTotal has breached and continues to breach Facebook’s
18 terms, “an injunction would potentially incentivize similar breaches among [scrapers].” *Epic Games*,
19 2020 WL 5993222, at *21 (concluding that balance of equities weighed in Apple’s favor where Epic
20 Games breached its agreements and Apple’s guidelines). BrandTotal’s CEO testified that [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] Documents produced after that
23 deposition revealed that the conduct was more egregious. [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

26 As this Court has recognized, “BrandTotal built its business on ignoring Facebook’s
27 prohibition on automated access without permission.” Dkt. 58 at 34. Taking BrandTotal’s inability
28

1 to demonstrate anything even approaching irreparable harm together with its unclean hands, the
2 balance of equities tip sharply in Facebook's favor.

3 **VI. THERE IS NO PUBLIC INTEREST IN PERMITTING ILLEGAL DATA SCRAPING**

4 Finally, BrandTotal continues to take the remarkable position that there is a public interest in
5 reinstating platform access to a third-party that engaged in impermissible data scraping, even after this
6 Court's conclusion in its Order denying BrandTotal's TRO that "the public interest requires denying
7 the extraordinary relief BrandTotal seeks." Dkt. 58 at 34. This despite the fact that BrandTotal
8 enforces the same anti-scraping term on its own site, positioning itself as the sole gatekeeper of data
9 it has scraped from LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and Amazon. Mehta Decl. Ex.
10 3, BrandTotal, *Service Terms and Conditions* § 5.1. It has not met its burden to establish that an
11 injunction would be in the public interest.

12 The public interest is served by permitting Facebook to take necessary steps to protect privacy
13 of users of the Facebook platform. "In particular, the public has a strong interest in the integrity of
14 Facebook's platforms, Facebook's policing of those platforms for abuses, and Facebook's protection
15 of its users' privacy." *Stackla, Inc.*, 2019 WL 4738288, at *6; *Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*,
16 252 F. Supp. 3d 765, 782 (N.D. Cal. 2017), *aff'd*, 749 F. App'x 557 (9th Cir. 2019) ("The public has
17 an interest in ensuring that computers are not accessed without authorization."). This is especially true
18 where BrandTotal has evinced little care for the user data it is collecting. To take one example,
19 BrandTotal has acknowledged that its UpVoice extension [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED]

27
28 ¹⁷ Mr. Dor testified to that fact only *after* BrandTotal denied that such a problem existed in response
to Facebook's Request for Admission. *See* Ex. FF at 4.

1 Further, granting BrandTotal’s preliminary injunction would have the effect of second-
2 guessing, through a federal civil action, Facebook’s considered exercise of its authority to maintain
3 the integrity of its platforms. Although BrandTotal now assures this Court that it is only collecting
4 so-called “public” data, allowing this exception to Facebook’s prohibition on automated collection
5 would incentivize countless developers to send code to Facebook (and likely other sites that have a
6 similar prohibition) and demand Facebook undertake the burdensome project of reviewing and
7 approving code that could later change without Facebook’s knowledge. Not to mention that Facebook
8 has no way of monitoring or assuring that a third party is obtaining the consent of Facebook users
9 before collecting their data or piggybacking on their login information. It is impracticable to assume
10 Facebook could review the code and monitor the third-party consent processes of every entity that
11 wants to scrape data from the Facebook platform. *See Ex. GG* (“[T]he number of developers who
12 access or collect advertising-related data from Facebook is enormous.”). Facebook has instead created
13 a workable solution of preventing automated collection unless it is done through Facebook’s
14 authorized means. BrandTotal believes it is entitled to a special set of permissions on the Facebook
15 platform that Facebook would then need to offer to every scraping entity. There is no interest in
16 allowing BrandTotal to circumvent that system simply because it is unwilling to design its product to
17 work within those authorized means.

18 BrandTotal goes to great lengths to analogize its data scraping to the data collection in *hiQ*,
19 pointing to the Ninth Circuit’s emphasis on the “maximizing the free flow of information on the
20 Internet,” 938 F.3d at 1004, BrandTotal ignores the fact that it cannot get the advertising data it collects
21 without first piggybacking on a user’s login to scrape information about the advertisement. As Mr.
22 Dor testified, [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]. Ex. L at 57:2-
24 8. The data is fundamentally different from the data in *hiQ*, which was publicly-available without
25 scraping any information from the user. Indeed, *hiQ* itself recognized that platforms could protect
26 themselves from data scraping through enforcement of their own contract rights. *hiQ*, 938 F.3d at 1004
27 (reiterating that “victims of data scraping are not without resort” because “other causes of action, such
28 as ... breach of contract ... may also lie”). While BrandTotal frames the collection of advertising data

1 as innocuous, that data belongs to advertisers. Mehta Decl. Ex. 4 ¶ 9 (“Advertisements and ad
2 creatives belong to the user that created the advertisement and often involve copyrighted works.”);
3 Ex. C at 28:2-4 (“[O]ur products are built to provide advertisers control over their data. They enter
4 the advertising; they control their data.”). And as Mr. Clark testified, many advertisers on Facebook
5 are individuals, meaning that when BrandTotal scrapes the information of the advertiser, it is scraping
6 an individual’s first and last name. Ex. B at 104:18-20. Further, Facebook provides a service to its
7 advertisers; advertisers choose to advertise on the Facebook platform knowing its Terms of Service,
8 and do not expect that Facebook will allow third parties to sell and monetize information about their
9 advertisements. Mehta Decl. Ex. 4 ¶ 9.

10 There is no public interest in requiring Facebook to allow third-parties to violate its terms
11 simply because they proclaim their violation innocuous. Facebook has developed its terms and
12 extensive reporting and enforcement program to ensure the privacy of its users, including advertisers,
13 and the integrity of its system. Mehta Decl., Ex. 1 ¶¶ 5-9. There is no public interest in forcing
14 Facebook to make exceptions to those terms or to take BrandTotal at its word that it scrapes only
15 public data or adequately gets user consent. The ramifications for technology companies and their
16 users would be far-reaching and at odds with the efforts that Facebook and other companies are taking
17 every day to enhance protection for user data.

18 **VII. CONCLUSION**

19 The Court should deny the Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction.

20
21 Dated: April 9, 2021

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND
DORR LLP

22

23 By: /s/ Sonal Mehta
24 Sonal N. Mehta

25

Attorney for Plaintiff
Facebook, Inc.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2

3 I hereby certify that on April 9, 2021, I electronically filed the above document with the Clerk
4 of the Court using CM/ECF which will send electronic notification of such filing to all registered
5 counsel.
6

Dated: April 9, 2021

By: /s/ Sonal Mehta
Sonal N. Mehta

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